Vol. VIII. Numb. 51

THE OBSERVATOR.

Roger corrects his Maſter for a Miſtake, in ſaying, that Money is ſcarce in the Nation; and proves it by the Treaſurer of the Drury-Lane *Play-houſe's Authority, that ſix Comedians had receiv'd in a little Time* 1957 l. 3 s. 1 d. ½ *from that Play-houſe, where Baggs are found by Wholeſale; therefore* Roger *is reſolv'd to turn* Zany, *and run away from his Maſter.*

From Saturday, July 23. to Wednesday, July 27. 1709.

Country-m. I Come now, Maſter, to beg Leave to tell you of a Miſtake that has run thro' your Papers, and hope you will not be angry.

Obſ. No, *Roger*, I never pretended to be infallible. Pray let me hear it.

Country-m. Why, Maſter, you have frequently ſaid, that Trade runs low, and Money is ſcarce in the Nation; but I can prove the contrary.

Obſ. I will thank you for convincing me of that Miſtake, *Reger*. Pray out with it; for if you prove well what you ſay, you will oblige a Million of People beſides my ſelf.

Country-m. There's my Voucher, Maſter. 'Tis under the Hands of a Receiver and Treaſurer; what better Proof would you have?

Obſ. What Sort of a Treaſurer and Receiver is he, *Roger?* Is his Evidence worth any Thing? Will it be taken in our Courts at *Weſtminſter?*

Country-m. Why do you queſtion it, Maſter? You ſee he is a Man in Authority; his Name is *Baggs*, which carries Evidence along with it: Beſides, he appeals to the Quality about Town, and you muſt allow them to be good Judges. He is Treaſurer to the Patentees of the Play-houſe in *Drury-Lane*, Maſter; ſo that the Reputation of my Witneſs is good, and beyond all Exception.

Obſ. Thou art a pleaſant Fellow, *Roger*. Pray what does Mr. *Baggs* ſay? I admit his Teſtimony to be very good. There's few Courts in *Chriſtendom* where his Word is not taken for the beſt Evidence. He has carry'd more Cauſes in his Time, than hath the Lawyers about Town; is in very great Reputation with Juries, and has been ſo formerly with Judges, tho' ſome of 'em, that were never Court-bred, put their Thumbs under their Girdle, and give him ever now and then a croſs Word, and a ſour Look.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, let's come to the Purpoſe; there you have it under Mr. *Baggs*'s own Hand, that ſix Comedians belonging to the *Drury-lane* Play-houſe, have, betwixt the 12th of *October*, and the 4th of *June* laſt, receiv'd 1957 *l.* 3 *s.* 2 *d.* and yet he ſays they complain, and are unſatisfy'd, as if they had receiv'd no more Money than *ſo many poor* Palatines.

Obſ. O the tranſcendant Wit of the Play-houſe, *Roger!* I'll warrant you he's one of Squire *Bickerſtaff*'s ſmart Fellows, that wears his Cane on his Button, and never ſtruts Abroad without red-heel'd Shoes. Does he tell you how much he receiv'd himſelf?

Country-m. Not a Word of that, Maſter; but you may be ſure he receiv'd more than he paid; and if thoſe pretty Fellows, the Comedians would be at the Pains to have him examin'd in *Chancery*, I make no doubt it would appear ſo. But, pray Maſter, take Notice of his judicious Remark, that he only reckons ſix acting Days to a Week; ſo that you ſee he's a very juſt Man.

Obſ. What Pity 'tis, *Roger*, he could not make ſeven, as in the Days of *Yore*, when Comedies were acted at *Whitehall*, and the Scenes prepar'd by *Inigo Jones*.

Country-m. Mum for that, Maſter; not one of it, I pray you; for thoſe Comedies were follow'd by a dreadful Tragedy that I don't care to hear of. I remember, that in one of thoſe *Sundays*-Entertainments at *Whitehall*, *they repreſented Hell broke looſe, and from the Suburbs of it, came forth* 'One with 'a Viol, the reſt with Taber and Pipe, Knackers 'and Bells, Tongs and Key, Gridiron and Shoeing-horn, a Ballad-ſinger and his Companion, 'with their Auditory, a Porter laden, a Vintner's 'Boy, a Kitchin-maid with a Hand-basket, a Sailor, a Cryer of Mouſe-traps, a Seller of Tinder-'boxes, a Maſter of two Baboons and an Ape, a 'Mountebank in the Habit of a grave Doctor, a '*Zany*, a Harlequin and their Men, an old, lame 'Chair-woman, two pale Wenches preſenting their 'Urinals, and he diſtributing his printed Receipts 'out of a Budget, four old-faſhion'd parafitical 'Courtiers, *rebellious Leaders in War*, Cade, Kett, 'Jack Straw, *and their Soldiers.*

Obſ. What, all this of a *Sunday*, *Roger*, and at *Whitehall* too! I did not think thou had'ſt been ſo well read.

Country-m. Ho, Maſter,

I'm very well acquainted with the Hiſtory of the Stage,
Thoſe glorious Reformers of the Vices of the Age.

Obſ. Hold, hold, *Roger*, I'm afraid I ſhall loſe thee; thou wil't turn a Stage-Poet, and ſupply the Place of one of thoſe that are about deſerting the *Baggs* in *Drury-Lane*.

Country-m Zooks, Maſter, 'tis one of the beſt Trades that's a going. I ſhall get more by that, than by being your Country-man. People ſay you're a dull Fellow, and don't care for *Zanies*; therefore I'll leave you, and go where I ſhall both have Mirth and Money. *Baggs*, Maſter, that's a charming Word; they find them by Wholeſale at the Play-houſe. The Treaſurer ſays,

	l.	*s.*	*d.*	
Mr. *Wilks* found one with	259	1	5	
Mr. *Betterton* found a 2d of	188	14	5	
Mr. *Eſcourt* found a 3d of	163	18	6	
Mr. *Cibber* found a 4th of one Farthing leſs	162	10	10 ¾	not
Mr. *Mills* found a 5th of	170	11	4	
Mrs. *Oldfield* found a 6th of	132	6	7	
Mr. *Wilks* found by Gueſs	40	0	0	
Mr. *Betterton* the like	450	0	0	did'n't
he gueſs well, Maſter?				
Mr. *Eſcourt* the like	200	0	0	
Mr. *Cibber* the like	50	0	0	
Mr. *Mills* the like	20	0	0	poor
Fellow!				
Mrs. *Oldfield* the like	120	0	0	
In all	1957	3	1 ¾	

Now, Maſter, tho' the Treaſurer has charg'd them with a Half-penny more than they have receiv'd, which ſhews him to be a cheating Fellow, yet I think they are all very well pay'd. I'm ſure, except you and I gueſs better than we have done hitherto, we ſhan't get ſo much all our Days, tho' I put my Farming into the Bargain, as they have got in twenty two Weeks and three Days, as Mr. *Baggs* ſays, tho' we could have twelve acting Days in a Week; and you ſee they are ſo modeſt as to make but ſix.

Obſ. And how do they ſpend the ſeventh, *Roger?*

Country-m. In Reſt, as they ought to do, Maſter. I don't believe one of them gets out of Bed on *Sun-*

day

days, 'till one a Clock in the Afternoon, and then they think on Paradiſe.

Obſ. Paradiſe, *Roger!* what Sort of Paradiſe?

Country-m. *Mahomet*'s Paradiſe, Maſter; for which I have the Authority of the *Sunday*'s Maſk, that was acted at *Whitehall* in 1637, entitl'd, *Britannia Triumphans*, by *Inigo Jones*, Surveyor of his Majeſty's Works, and *William Davenant*, her Majeſty's Servant. There 'tis in Print, Maſter; if you won't believe me, believe your own Eyes. One of the Actors ſpeaking of the Youth, ſays,

——— *And in their chiefeſt Growth*
They follow but my Grandſire Mahomet's
Divinity, who doth allow the Good a handſome Girl
On Earth, the Valiant two in Paradiſe.

And in the Valediction, Maſter, that the Auditence might be furniſh'd with ſuitable Meditations for the *Sabbath*-Night, you have theſe admirable Lines;

Wiſe Nature, *that the Dew of Sleep prepares,*
To intermit our Joys, and eaſe our Cares,
Invites you from theſe Triumphs to your Reſt.
May every Whiſper that is made, be chaſte,
Each Lady ſlowly yield, yet yield at laſt
Her Heart a Priſ'ner to her Lover's Breaſt.
To Bed, to Bed, may ev'ry Lady dream
From that ‖ chief Beauty ſhe hath ſtoll'n a Beam, ‖ the then Q.
Which will amaze her Lover's Eyes.
Each lawful Lover to advance his Youth,
Dream he hath ſtoll'n ‖ his Vigor, Love, and Truth; ‖ the K.
Then all will haſte to Bed, and none to riſe.

Obſ. Well, *Roger*, I perceive the Stage is mighty Admirers of Uniformity; they have always acted the ſame Part, to debauch Peoples Morals, inſtead of reforming them: But I am ſorry to ſay it, and yet 'tis true, that Hell, which they repreſented here as let looſe, in Jeſt, and in ſuch a Manner as to ridicule that Place of eternal Puniſhment for the Wicked, was ſoon after let looſe in good Earneſt upon thoſe who countenanc'd that profane Repreſentation, by a Rebellion of another Sort than thoſe of *Cade*, *Kett*, and *Jack Straw*.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter; and Hell being thus let looſe at Court, it got into the Church too, and brought the Book of Sports and Paſtimes along with it, attended with Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance; which together made ſuch helliſh Work both in Church and State, that they brought all into Blood and Confuſion; and when we at laſt had a Calm; and expected halcyon Days, they turn'd us topſy turvy again, and brought in Popery and Slavery upon us; and tho' our Church, to rid us of thoſe Elves, put on a ſcarlet Waſte-Coat and Jack-Boots, and tho' we had ſeven Golden Candleſticks ſet up before the Revolution, to let us ſee to drive them out of the Church, all our Endeavours have been in vain; thoſe Fiends ſtill ſquat aloud for *St. Germains* and *Verſailles*, revile her Majeſty and the *Hannover*-Succeſſion, cut the Graſs under their Feet, and let Mr. *Hoadly* preach and print his Heart out, they are reſolv'd to maintain their Poſſeſſion: They have taken Hold of the Horns of the Altar, where they think they may with Safety call her Majeſty a Rebel and Uſurper by Craft; nay, ſome of them have done it even without a Diſguiſe, witneſs *The exorbitant Grants of King* William, dedicated to her Majeſty, and the then Houſe of Commons.

Country-m. Hold, hold, Maſter, you have rambl'd from the Text. Don't you own I have plainly prov'd, that there's a great deal of Money in the Nation, when in leſs than half a Year's Time, notwithſtanding the fatal Occaſion the Court had to be in Mourning, there has been almoſt 2000 *l.* paid to ſix Comedians, ſeveral of which, by the Treaſurer's own Confeſſion, ſuch as Mrs. *Betterton*, Mrs. *Mills*, and Mrs. *Oldfield*, did little or nothing for it; and you may be ſure, Maſter, that there was at leaſt 2000 *l.* more paid, otherwiſe the Patentees had but a ſorry Bargain on't; and ſince thoſe Comedians talk of deſerting, to be ſure their Commons have been ſhorter than ordinary.

Obſ. Inſtead of making good your Point, *Roger*, you have only prov'd, according to the old Proverb, *That Fools and their Money are ſoon parted*: For, in my Opinion, the Comedians were much worſe employ'd, than if they had done nothing, ſince every Body muſt own, that 'tis better to be idle, than to be doing Miſchief; and that our Comedians have done nothing elſe, I appeal to their printed Plays. In the mean Time, is it not a Shame that this Money, which might have gone a good way to relieve the poor *Palatines*, ſhould not only be ſo wickedly laid out, but the Miſery of thoſe diſtreſs'd People, whom the Government has taken ſo much Care to relieve, made the Jeſt of a profane Buffoon?

Country-m. You ſay very well, Maſter. I hope that Lady who finds herſelf expos'd for giving 10 or 20 Guineas to *Betterton*, will think herſelf oblig'd to attone by ſending 100 to the *Palatines*. I'm ſure, were I entruſted with her Caſh, I would ſerve her as the *Scotch* Foot-man did his Lady, who giving him Money to take Seats at the Play-houſe on a Saturday, went and gave it for Seats at Church on the Sunday, and when her Ladiſhip chid him for his Miſtake, he humbly begg'd her Pardon, becauſe he had frequently waited on her Ladiſhip to a Sermon, and thought ſhe would not have gone to a Bawdy-houſe Market; for the poor Fellow thought the Play-houſe deſerv'd no better Name.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Life and Adventures of Capt. John Avery, the famous Engliſh Pirate, rais'd from a Cabbin-boy to a King, now in Poſſeſſion of Madagaſcar; being a ſuccinct Account of his Birth, Parentage, Education, Miſfortunes and Succeſſes, viz. His ſerving the Government on Board the Reſolution and Nonſuch Men of War. The Reaſons why he quitted that Service, for that of the Merchants; and his ſailing to Jamaica, where he diſpos'd of the Ship's Cargo. His taking a large Ship, worth above 1000000 Sterling, belonging to the Great Mogul, with his Grand-daughter on Board, with whom he marry'd. The Methods he took to eſtabliſh himſelf. His Wealth, Strength, and Acquiſitions by Sea and Land. His Character. The ſeveral Overtures he has made to return to his Obedience. A Deſcription of the Country with its Cuſtoms, Manners, &c. Written by a Perſon who made his Eſcape from thence, and faithfully extracted from his Journal. Sold by J. Baker, at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6 *d.*

☞ Dr. Anderſon's, or the famous Scots Pills, are, by her Majeſty's Authority, faithfully prepar'd only by Mrs. Ingliſh from Edinburgh, now living at the Golden Unicorn, over againſt the May-pole in the Strand, London. And to prevent Counterfeits from Scotland, as well as in and about London, you are deſir'd to take Notice, that the true Pills have their Boxes ſeal'd on the Top (in black Wax) with a Lyon rampant, and three Mullets argent, Dr. Anderſon's Head betwixt I I with his Name round it, and Iſabella Ingliſh underneath the Shield, in a Scroll. They are of excellent Uſe, to be taken with Epſom, Tunbridge, or other Medicinal Waters. ☞ Beware of Counterfeits, eſpecially of an ignorant Pretender, one Mullen, who keeps a China-Shop, within three Doors of me, and ſells a notorious Counterfeit, inſtead of the true Pill I. Ingliſh.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-bellyd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

ANTIVENEREAL-PILLS, &c. which perfectly carry off the Infection of a Clap, or Running of the Reins, and compleat the Cure in a few Days Time, without any Hindrance of Buſineſs. They free the Body of the Remains of any ill-cur'd Pox or Clap, and of Mercury (unſkilfully given.) They are ſafe and pleaſant in their Operation, and may be depended on for an effectual, private, and ſpeedy Cure, even in the moſt ſtubborn and inveterate (curable) Pox, when attended with violent Aches, Pains, Night-ſweats, Ulcers, &c. their Author can truly affirm from Experience, he having by their Aſſiſtance, perform'd more eminent Cures in that Diſeaſe within theſe laſt ten Years of his Practice, than any other Phyſician or Surgeon in Great Britain has done in that Time. Theſe Pills are ſold at the Box, and his other Medicines, which any particular Caſe may require, of moderate Prices. To be had at the Golden Ball in the dark Paſſage three Doors beyond the Sun Tavern in Honey-lane Market in Cheapſide. Where alſo may be had his Book call'd QUACKERY UNMASK'D, which is a rational and effectual Anſwer to the 6th Edition of Mr. Martin's Treatiſe concerning the Venereal Diſeaſe, its Appendix, and the charitable Surgeon. Price bound 1 s. 6 *d.*

☞ Eliz. Turchin, Widow of the late John Turchin, who formerly kept a Boarding-ſchool at Newington-Green and Shacklewell, now keeps a School near the Nags-head at Highgate; where is good Accommodation for Lodgers.

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